Wild life tourism in Orissa

6852. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) wheher there is a vast scope for development of forest and wild life tourism in Orissa;

(b) whether there is also a vast scope to attract domestic as well as foreign tourists to the tribal populated districts of Phoulbani, Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Kalahandi and undivided Koraput in Orissa; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to develop tourism in those areas particularly in the undivided Koraput district?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Development of Tourism in the identified areas of State is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. Government of India provides financial assistance on the basis of specific and complete proposals received from the State Government. For the development of Tourism in tribal areas in Orissa a tourist complex at Koraput for Rs. 42.23 lakhs, a Visitors centre at Bissam-Cuttack for Rs. 3.52 lakhs and a Visitors centre at Kalahandi for Rs. 3.52 lakhs have been sanctioned by the Department of Tourism, Government of India.

During the year 1994-95 an amount of Rs. 14.05 lakhs has also been sanctioned for the Water Sports Equipment for the State.

Expansion of Airports in Gujarat

6853. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) which are the Airports in Gujarat being expanded;

(b) the details of the expansion programme; and

(c) by when the expension programme is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has plans to upgrade the following airports in Gujarat:—

AHMEDABAD: Extension of runway, subject to availability of land from the State Government.

BHUJ: Construction of Terminal Building, AAI has sought land from Indian Air Force.

BHAVNAGAR: Extension of runway from 6000 ft. to 7500 ft. The project is in planning stage in AAI.

PORBANDAR: Construction of Terminal Building, Eestimates are under preparation in AAI.

RAJKOT: Resurfacing of runway, apron and taxiway. Estimates are under preparation in AAI.

VADODARA: Construction of new Terminal Building, operational wall and additional taxiway and extension of apron—Expected date of completion is October, 1995.

Construction of Technical Block cum Control Tower—Project is in planning stage.

Performance of ITDC Hostels

6854. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that out of 36 ITDC hotels ten are running in loss;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the average occupancy percentage of the ITDC hotels is less than 50 per cent

against 70 to 100 per cent occupancy in private hotels;

(c) whether it is a fact that the below average performance of the hotels is due to mismanagement of the ITDC properties coupled with inefficient and non-professional services rendered; and

(d) the action Government propose to take to boost the image of the ITDC hotels to make them viable to be able to stand in competition with private hotels in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) During 1994-95, ten out of 26 hotels of ITDC incurred losses.

(b) No, Sir. The average occupancy of ITDC hotels was 54 per cent during 1994-95.

(c) No, Sir. The loss incurring situation of certain hotels is attributed mainly to adverse tourism scenario caused *inter alia* by factors such as plague, malaria etc.

(d) The steps taken|being taken by ITDC to improve the performance of hotels to make them competitive and to enhanced their image include: aggressive marketing efforts, introduction of special tariff|packages, upgradation|improvement of hotel properties, monitoring and control of operating cost, development of human resource by imparting suitable training etc.

Unemployment problems of pilots

6855. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the types and number of various categories of licences issued to pilots and flying crew during the last year;

(b) how many of such pilots are gainfully employed and how many are unemployed;

(c) what are the reasons or their unemployment; and

(d) what action has been taken|proposed to be taken to ease the unemployment problem of pilots?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) The Director General of Civil Aviation has issued 845 pilots' licences during the year 1994 as follows:

Airline Transport Pilot's Licences (Aeroplane)—111

Airline Transport Pilot's Licences (Helicopter)—1

Senior Commercial Pilot's Licence (Aeroplane)—50

Commercial Pilot's Licence (Aeroplane)—175

Commercial Helicopter Pilot's Licence—15

Private Pilot's Licence (Aeroplane)—194

Private Helicopter Pilot's Licence—1

Pilot's Licence (Glider)—23

Flight Radio Telephone Operator's Licence (R)—35

Flight Radio Telephone Operator's Licence—236

Student Pilot's Licence (Baloon)—1

Student Pilot's Licence (Helicopter)—2

Student Pilot's Licence (Microlight)—1

(b) to (d) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation does not maintain records of employed|unemployed pilots. Morever, issuing of licence is not linked with demand for employment of pilots.

Poor facilities at Sahar Airport Bombay

6856. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA
DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the poor facilities at the Sahar Airport, Bombay;